

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A process for preparing polyether polyols having an end block of ethylene oxide by addition of alkylene oxides onto H-functional starter substances, in which
 - A) a polyether polyol precursor is prepared by means of double metal cyanide (DMC) catalysis in a semicontinuous mode of operation in which previously prepared polyether polyol together with the DMC catalyst are placed in a reactor and H-functional starter substance and propylene oxide are added continuously,
 - B) the polyether polyol precursor from stage A) is reacted with propylene oxide or an ethylene oxide/propylene oxide mixture in the presence of the DMC catalyst in a continuously operating reactor to give a polyether polyol intermediate,
 - C) the intermediate from stage B) is mixed with an alkali metal hydroxide as catalyst and
 - D) reacted with ethylene oxide in a continuously operating reactor to give the final product,
 - E) the catalyst is separated off from the final product obtained in stage D).
2. (Original) A process according to claim 1, wherein the polyether polyol precursor prepared in stage A) has from 10 to 80% of the molar mass of the final product.
3. (Original) A process according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the polyether polyol precursor prepared in stage A) has an OH number of from 50 to 400 mg KOH/g.

4. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any of claims claim 1 to 3~~, wherein the polyether polyol intermediate prepared in stage B) has from 50 to 95% of the molar mass of the final product.
5. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any of claims claim 1 to 4~~, wherein stage B) is carried out in a continuously operated stirred tank reactor (CSTR).
6. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any of claims claim 1 to 4~~, wherein stage B) is carried out in a continuously operated jet loop reactor having internal heat exchanger tubes.
7. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any of claims claim 1 to 4~~, wherein stage B) is carried out in a continuously operated, completely filled circulation reactor.
8. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any of claims claim 1 to 7~~, wherein the catalyst suitable for ethoxylation is selected from among KOH, amines and Lewis acids.
9. (Original) A process according to claim 8, wherein the catalyst is separated off from the final product in stage E) by adding water to the reaction mixture obtained in stage D and effecting phase separation in a coalescer.

Please Add the Following New Claims:

10. (New) A process according to claim 2, wherein the polyether polyol intermediate prepared in stage B) has from 50 to 95% of the molar mass of the final product.
11. (New) A process according to claim 3, wherein the polyether polyol intermediate prepared in stage B) has from 50 to 95% of the molar mass of the final product.

12. (New) A process according to claim 4, wherein stage B) is carried out in a continuously operated stirred tank reactor (CSTR).
13. (New) A process according to claim 2, wherein stage B) is carried out in a continuously operated jet loop reactor having internal heat exchanger tubes.
14. (New) A process according to claim 3, wherein stage B) is carried out in a continuously operated jet loop reactor having internal heat exchanger tubes.
15. (New) A process according to claim 4, wherein stage B) is carried out in a continuously operated jet loop reactor having internal heat exchanger tubes.
16. (New) A process according to claim 2, wherein stage B) is carried out in a continuously operated, completely filled circulation reactor.
17. (New) A process according to claim 3, wherein stage B) is carried out in a continuously operated, completely filled circulation reactor.
18. (New) A process according to claim 4, wherein stage B) is carried out in a continuously operated, completely filled circulation reactor.
19. (New) A process according to claim 10, wherein stage B) is carried out in a reactor selected from the group of a continuously operated jet loop reactor having internal heat exchanger tubes and a completely filled circulation reactor.
20. (New) A process according to claim 11, wherein stage B) is carried out in a reactor selected from the group of a continuously operated jet loop reactor having internal heat exchanger tubes and a completely filled circulation reactor.